

Utah State Medical Association

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NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

We imagine that if our grandfathers, who were perchance physicians, could live today and enjoy the facilities of diagnosis and practice now at our disposal they would burst into tears of delight.

The diagnostic laboratory, the x-ray, more modern and standard methods of examination and history taking, have in a measure revolutionized the work-up of the average case with which we come in contact, though heaven knows some of those old boys were bears at physical examination and seemingly carried eyes in their finger-tips.

Be that as it may, times change, and we ought to change with them. Nowadays the average patient is from Missouri, no matter where he was born, and it is high time that we adopted the Missouri standard among ourselves.

Never too old to learn is a motto every doctor ought to pin in his hat or over his desk, or somewhere, capable of being seen at least daily. It's a sort of preventive from falling into a rut. And ruts are bad things, on a road or in a practice. Today more than ever we should be vigilant. There is just one thing of real interest to the patient and that is—the end-result.

Therefore, we should learn, and keep on learning, and in every community with three or four medical men there is a ready means to this end. Get together—organize a "Review Class." Meet once a week or every two weeks and compare notes, review current literature, write up some interesting subject or case and read it together and discuss it after that. Friction brightens even while it grinds. This is as true of mental processes as of machinery, and if you don't believe it try the experience of going up against some confrere who knows more about a given matter than you do and see if it doesn't—grind! It will, but it will brighten at the same time—it will prove a mental stimulant.

The writer has had the privilege for some years of attending such a class. It has done more than any one thing to help him to keep at least in touch with the profession, and not entirely lose step. There is only one time when a doctor knows it all and that is the first week after he graduates. After that he will, if normal, admit a sense of bewilderment as to just how the men who passed him into the field of medicine happened to make such a whopping mistake. No, we're never too old to learn. So let's get busy learning. And there is no better way for the average man than to organize or gain admission to some already organized review class.

Incidentally, every man in Utah who can make the grade ought to begin now to prepare to attend the session of the Utah Association at Salt Lake in September, and to remain long enough to avail himself of the excellent program being arranged for the immediately following course in post-graduate work.

Utah Hotes (reported by J. U. Giesy, associate editor)—The dates for the Utah Medical Association meeting to be held in Salt Lake City have been definitely set as September 7, 8, and 9, and on September 10, 11, and 12. A course in graduate instruction will be held for all physicians attending the meeting who may desire to avail themselves of the opportunity of enjoying the excellent program now being arranged.

Thus far Doctors Hamaan of Cleveland, Ohio, surgeon; Walter T. Williamson, chairman of the board of trustees of the A. M. A. of Portland, and Brassch of Rochester, Minnesota, have promised to be on hand. Other names are on the list of possible available lecturers now being corresponded with by Doctor Frank Steel, who has this part of the arrangements in hand.

Governor George H. Dern and Health—Instead of following the usual custom of discussing finance and politics in his inaugural message, Governor Dern of Utah secured extensive nationwide publicity because he chose health as his subject. The doctors of Utah are much pleased at having their work thus recognized in a way that will produce wholesome results.

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children Opened—The entire south wing of St. Mark's Hospital, Salt Lake City, has been leased by the Shriners and remodeled as the Salt Lake unit of their hospitals for children. The Mystic Shrine has erected six hospitals exclusively for children, and the seventh is in process of construction. In addition, in smaller communities, half a dozen such havens for crippled children have been opened—as the one in Salt Lake. As is the case with the other hospitals supported by this mystic organization, this unit will be devoted to the care of the sick children of Utah. A. L. Heuther, M. D., has been appointed head of the institution. Miss Mabel Torgeson has been appointed day superintendent and Miss Nena Williamson, night superintendent.

Recent Admissions to Practice Medicine in Utah—Results of the recent examinations for student pharmacists, physicians and surgeons were announced recently by J. T. Hammond, state director of registration.

Vernon F. Houston of American Fork, N. Henry Savage of Ogden, C. R. Cornwall of Salt Lake, A. L. Huether of Salt Lake, E. L. Christensen of Salt Lake and Norman Olsen of Salt Lake, who took the examination for physicians and surgeons, will be granted licenses. All of the persons who took the examination passed.

R. G. M. Ehlers was granted a physician's and surgeon's license through reciprocal agreement with the United States Army. Others who will be permitted to practice in Utah because of such arrangements and the states in which they had been licensed, follow: L. E. Growney, Nebraska; C. A. Parker, Kansas; David Maeth, New York, and Nelson Adam Young from Minnesota.

J. T. Hammond, state director of registration, announced that he received \$1150.50 in fees last month.

Doctor Murray Rockwell Stewart, City Commissioner, died recently, following an illness extending over a period of two weeks.

Dr. Stewart was a member of the Salt Lake County Medical Society and of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. He was elected to the city commission more than three years ago, and was head of the department of parks and public property.

His parents are both dead, the only surviving relatives being his widow, Mrs. Nellie Walker Stewart of this city, and his brother, Charles T. Stewart.

Box Elder County Medical Society (reported by W. Leroy Smith, secretary)—The Box Elder County Medical Society met January 28 in their annual meeting, and elected the following officers: President, R. A. Pearse, Brigham, Utah; vice-president, T. E. Betensen, Garland, Utah; secretary-treasurer, W. Leroy Smith, Brigham, Utah. Delegate to the State Medical Association meeting, Odeem Luke, Tremonton, Utah. Alternate, R. A. Pearse. Board of censors, E. A. Weymuller and E. H. White.

These were the same officers that presided the past year, they having given such satisfactory service in establishing the new society in our county, that it was the

unanimous opinion that they should continue another year to give the organization a good start.

During the past several months that we have been organized, we have had two luncheons that were well attended, and we have had three meetings at which excellent papers have been prepared and read by the members. One paper by R. A. Pearce on carcinoma of the breast was most interesting. The essayist gave an enthusiastic report of the numerous cases, and illustrated the great amount of increased suffering that is always caused by operating on an inoperable carcinoma that has metastases far from the original tumor, presenting histories of such cases. Another paper by Odeem Luke on the relation of the general public to the present publicity given to venereal diseases and their prophylaxis opened up general discussion of the subject; as it applies locally with very promising effect. And at the last meeting E. A. Weymuller gave a very good paper on some of the minor details in acute and chronic endocarditis.

The members of the society all feel that the meetings have been very beneficial and the attendance has been good, although some of the members have long distances to travel. This difficulty has been overcome by having some of the meetings at the outside points.

Salt Lake County Medical Society (reported by L. J. Paul, acting secretary)—A meeting of the society was held January 26, at the Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City. President John Z. Brown presided, with 49 members and 19 visitors present.

Four clinical cases were presented.

Applications for membership by Leland R. Cowan and Ralph M. Tandowsky were read and referred to the board of censors.

The meeting was then turned over to M. M. Nielson, chairman of the Holy Cross Hospital program committee. A. A. Kerr presented two clinical cases showing successful skin grafting, and discussed a case of acute purulent infection of the gall-bladder. Wilford W. Barber presented and discussed a case of coeliac disease and a case of intermittent subacute intestinal obstruction. The cases were discussed by Root, Stevenson, Tyree, and Brown. John W. Sugden discussed a clinical case and presented post-mortem specimens showing congenital polycystic kidneys. H. P. Kirtley discussed a clinical case of acute prolapse of the uterus in a primipara with forward displacement of "sixth" lumbar vertebra. Specimens were presented, and discussion given by H. P. Kirtley on a case showing absence of a cervix, as well as an absence of opening into the uterus in a patient of 23 years. W. G. Schulte discussed a case showing the value of pyelograms in nephrolithiasis.

The applications for membership of Alfred Blumberg and J. E. Day, having been favorably reported by the board of censors, were accepted by formal vote by the society.

The following committees were appointed:

Medical Liability Insurance Committee—F. A. Goeltz, chairman; Sol G. Kahn, S. D. Calonge.

Medico-Legal Committee—E. F. Root, chairman; H. P. Kirtley, J. C. Landenberger (three years); A. C. Behle, S. H. Allen, W. S. Ellerbeck (two years); M. C. Lindem, C. L. Shields, F. Leaver Stapfer (one year).

Following the meeting, the Sisters of the Holy Cross Hospital served apple cider and wafers.

Salt Lake County Medical Society Meeting of February 9, 1925—A regular meeting of the society was held February 9, at the Commercial Club, Salt Lake City, President John Z. Brown presiding. Members present, 48. Visitors, 3. No clinical cases.

Clinical Program—Frank B. Steele read a very interesting and instructive paper on the treatment of pneumonia, mainly taken from his own practice, corroborating much of the work reported in the literature. Discussion opened by Perry G. Snow and L. W. Snow.

John F. Sharp discussed very effectively the principal complications of pneumonia from the surgical standpoint, stressing especially the treatment of empyema. He contrasted the opened and closed methods of draining the empyema cavities. He strongly advocates the closed method, which he described in detail, presenting a case on

which both methods had been used. Discussion by Roy Groesbeck.

A letter from our oldest honorary member, Salathiel Ewing, thanking the society for the birthday remembrance to him which he stated was very, very much appreciated, was read.

Report of the medico-legal committee on the case against Spencer Wright was given by Chairman E. F. Root.

The following new members were elected to the society: Leland R. Cowan and Ralph M. Tandowsky.

Nevada State Medical Association

W. M. EDWARDS, M. D., Mason.....President
CLAUDE E. PIERSALL, M. D., Reno.....
Secretary-Treasurer and Associate Editor for Nevada

Nevada Notes (reported by C. E. Piersall, associate editor)—The staff of the Elko General Hospital met at the hospital staff rooms on January 13. The following officers were elected for the year 1925: Chief of staff, J. R. Eby; vice-chief of staff, C. E. Secor; secretary, John E. Worden.

Immediately following the staff meeting, was the meeting of the Elko County Medical Society, which was called to order by the vice-president, J. R. Eby. The officers for the year 1925 were elected, and are: President, A. C. Olmstead; vice-president, J. R. Eby; secretary-treasurer, John E. Worden.

Washoe County Medical Society (reported by Henry Albert, secretary)—The society met in regular session in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce February 9, President Muller presiding.

Program—Dr. Henry Albert presented a brief report on "The Immune Reaction to Smallpox Vaccination." Paper was discussed by Pickard and Morrison.

The paper of the evening was by C. P. Caples on "Genito-urinary Tuberculosis." Discussion by Lewis, Morrison, and Albert.

New Business—M. A. Robison presented a draft of a bill to create a state bureau of health in a department of public welfare. On motion, this was referred back to the committee for revision and resubmission at some future meeting.

Doctor Robison also referred to the County Hospital Bill. On motion, the following committee was appointed to assist in securing the passage of said bill through the legislature: Robison, Chairman, Robinson, Pickard, West, Morrison, McLean, and Caples.

Robison also referred to the following items, which are before the legislature for consideration: (1) To change the word "misdemeanor" in the Medical Practice Act to "gross misdemeanor." (2) To change the word "may," referring to revoking a license to practice, to "shall." (3) To prohibit the sale of paregoric and certain other drugs except on a physician's prescription.

There was a general discussion of the control of transmissible diseases. Dr. Samuels offered the following motion: That a committee be appointed to confer with the County Commissioners within twenty-four hours if possible, and demand that the County Isolation Hospital be put in proper condition to receive all kinds of communicable and infectious diseases at once, and that the results of the interview with the County Commissioners be published in both of the city dailies as paid advertisements, and that the bill for same be paid by the Washoe County Medical Society. Passed.

The following committee was appointed: Samuels, chairman, Pickard, Morrison, West, and Tees.

Attendance—Adams, Albert, Brown, Caples, Fuller, Lewis, Morrison, Muller, Pickard, Piersall, Robinson, Robison, Samuels, Stadherr, Thompson, Tees, Walker, and West.